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The Offspring discuss their recent tour and getting political on new album. 7



## WHOISJENNYB?

Mysterious Utah-based company, Mother's Lounge, is showing an unusual interest in the ovaries of non-expectant women across the U.S. Read our staff writer's experience with this bizarre baby gift card marketing scheme. 4





#### Metro's Weather Report

MONDAY 51° | 42°

> Mostly Sunny

TUESDAY

59° | 45° Partly

Cloudy

WEDNESDAY 54° | 37° -0-

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THURSDAY

Showers

50° | 33°



## Whistleblower offers to speak to Republicans as Trump pushes to unmask

Unmasking whistleblower threat to personal safety.

The U.S. official whose whistleblower complaint led to the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump offered to communicate directly with Republicans on the intelligence committee leading the inquiry, his lawyers said on Sunday.

The action was in response to Republican efforts, led by Trump, to unmask the whistleblower, a member of the U.S. intelligence community whose identity has not been released, lawyer Mark Zaid said. Republicans have "sought to expose our client's identity which could jeopardize their safety, as well as that of their family," Zaid wrote on Twitter.

News of the offer came as Trump called on the whistleblower to come forward, in a stark departure from norms in such cases.

whistleblower "The be revealed. should because the whistle-



"The whistleblower should be revealed, because the whistleblower gave a false story."

Donald Trump

ry," Trump said on the White House lawn Sunday, while calling him an "Obama guy" and a "fraud."

Republicans have complained that the impeachment inquiry blower gave a false sto- in the Democratic-led

House of Representatives has been unfair to them and to Trump, and that they have been restricted in their questioning of witnesses. The inquiry has followed established House rules.

creasing pressure as the House of Representatives forges ahead with its investigation of whether Trump solicited help from Ukraine as he seeks re-election next year. Leaders of the Democratic-controlled House expect to begin public hearings in the next few weeks.

The inquiry was launched on Sept. 24 after a whistleblower complaint from the Trump is under in- unidentified U.S. intelligence official who was concerned that the president's actions on Ukraine were illegal and jeopardized national security.

As the inquiry enters its sixth week, however, the whistleblower's testimony, based on second-hand information provided by other U.S. officials, is not likely to be the most important.

Lawmakers ing the inquiry have since heard first-hand accounts from U.S. officials including former National Security Council member Alexander Vindman that describe Trump's efforts to pressure Ukraine to investigate the 2020 Democratic candidate Joe Biden and his son Hunter, as well as accusations he used \$391 million in U.S. aid as leverage.

A White House summary of a phone call between Trump and President Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskiy showed Trump asking his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate the Bidens.

Adam Schiff, the Democratic Intelligence Committee chairman, said last month that the cally motivated, REWERS

whistleblower's testimony might not be necessary.

The whistleblower initially offered to answer questions in writing if submitted by the House Intelligence Committee as a whole.

Zaid said the new offer, made on Saturday to top intelligence panel Republican Devin Nunes, reflected the client's desire to have the complaint handled in a nonpartisan way.

"Let me be absolutely clear: Our willingness to cooperate has not changed. What we object to and find offensive, however, is the effort to uncover the identity of the whistleblower," added Andrew Bakaj, another of the whistleblower's lawyers.

Nunes' office did not return a request for com-

Longstanding Intelligence Committee policy is to protect whistleblowers' anonymity.

Trump has repeatedly lashed out at the whistleblower and called for his identity to be made public. He denies any impropriety and says the impeachment is politi-

#### Firefighters beat back Southern California wildfire

Firefighters work-ing overnight to contain a Southern California wildfire made significant headway on Sunday, containing 50% of the blaze with the aid of cooler weather and lighter winds after it burned thousands of acres of dry brush and farmland. The Maria Fire, which broke out on Thursday near the community of Santa Paula about 70 miles (110 km) northwest of downtown Los Ange-

les, had destroyed two structures and burned more than 9,400 acres (3,800 hectares), the Ventura County Fire Department said on Sunday, "Overnight firefighters continued to patrol the fire perimeter extinguishing any remaining hot spots. Fire behavior was moderated due to cooler temperatures and lighter winds," the department said in a statement.

#### Celebs back climate action in Extinction Rebellion vid

3 Singer Ellie Gould-ing, actor Imelda Staunton and model Daisy Lowe were among celebrities demanding that the governments act on climate change in a video campaign launched by Extinction Rebellion on Sunday ahead of Britain's Dec. 12 general election. Extinction Rebellion launched in London a year ago, inspiring waves of colorful, disruptive actions around

the world to call for rapid cuts in carbon emissions and the repair of collapsing ecosystems. Thousands of people have been arrested during protests. The group's emphasis on the role that culture can play in shaping attitudes toward the twin climate and ecological crises has drawn support from a range of leading names from the worlds of music, fashion, art and film. sawes

#### Illegal loggers kill indigenous Amazon forest guard

illegal loggers in the Amazon ambushed an indigenous group that was formed to protect the forest and shot dead a young warrior and wounded another, leaders of the Guajajara tribe in northern Brazil said on Saturday, Paulo Paulino Guajajara, or Lobo (which means 'wolf' in Portuguese), was hunting on Friday inside the Arariboia reservation in Maranhao state when he was

attacked and shot in the head. Another Guajajara, Laercio, was wounded but escaped, they said. The clash comes amid an increase in invasions of reservations by illegal loggers and miners since right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro took office this year and vowed to open up protected indigenous lands to economic development. "The Bolsonaro government has indigenous blood on its hands," said Brazil's APIB. RELITERS

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# SINGING, DANCING, COOKING AND... WICKED NAUGHTY HUMOR

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If you've received a 'Jenny B' pregnancy card in the mail, you're not alone.

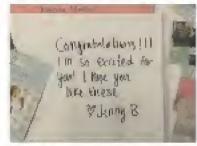


A while ago, I received a card in the mail with no return address. Upon opening, I was confronted with garish graphics and a tacky slogan, "Holy Guacamole, you're going to avo baby!" Inside, the card read, "Congratulations!!! I am so excited for you! I hope you like these! <3, Jenny B."

The card has \$245 in gift cards and an assortment of baby coupons.

Despite no return address, I quickly discovered the zip code it was mailed from was Salt Lake City, Utah. I do not know anyone in Utah.

#### 'Jenny B' gift card marketing scheme invades the northeast



Becca Glasser-Baker's card from Jenny B.: Mcco Glasser-Baker

I am not pregnant, nor do I have any plans to become pregnant in the immediate future.

I do not know any Jenny Bs either. So how and why did I get this? Was it mistaken identity? The letter was addressed to "Rebecca Glasser." My full name is Rebecca Glasser-Baker, not Rebecca Glasser.

I was confused and offended when I received the card. A plethora of questions flooded my mind. Was it real? Did I gain that much weight from my Booze and Brews column? Was it a scarn? Is someone assuming that because I'm 27 years old I'm pregnant? Or somehow bound to become pregnant? What kind of sexism is that? How did they get my information? Finally, what if I got this and I was someone who couldn't conceive?

I quickly discovered this wasn't a mistaken identity case and that I wasn't the only one who received the exact same card. Women across the United States have been receiving the same thing in the mail. Users on social media platforms such as Reddit and Twitter have expressed their distaste for the cheeky purple card.

Many of the women who received the cards and coupons were not pregnant either. So what's the deal?

Upon investigating the matter further, I discovered that in February this year, the Surry County Sheriff's office in Virginia had investigated the letters to see if they were a scam.

Folks have been posting that items they have ordered using these gift cards have never been received, some people affected are saying that they used the gift cards but had to pay over \$20 in shipping and some folks are reporting that money has been taken, but no items have been received.

The BBB reports that as of March 7, 2019, they reached out to Mother's Lounge requesting discontinuation of certain practices and requested modification.

According to the website, an alert about the company has been added to the BBB site, which reads, "BBB has recently received complaints concerning mailed gift card advertisements from Mother's Lounge LLC's different online businesses. These complaints

#### The Surry County Sherriff's department shared a post on Facebook stating:

"SCAM ALERT UPDATE!!!

This is a follow-up to the previous scam alert post. Upon further investigation we have revealed that 'Jen' is Jeanette Pierce from Pleasant Grove, Utah. Upon speaking with Ben Pierce, who is General Manager for Mothers Lounge, LLC located in Pleasant Grove, Utah (who) advised that they are sending out those cards as a promotional advertisement for those companies. It does not appear to be a scam.

With increases in scammers, we wanted to inform the community as soon as we suspected it to be a scam but we have later determined that it is not. We apologize for any inconvenience that this mix up has caused but we wanted to err on the side of caution. They purchase your address and email from other businesses that you have given that into to. You have to be sure to check the box that you wish not to have that information sold."

Mother's Lounge, ELC has quite a list of complaints on the Better Business Bureau (BBB) site. I spoke to Jane Rupp from BBB in Utah, that manages this BBB profile and they told me that, "BBB is continuing to receive numerous inquiries, complaints, customer reviews and BBB Scam Tracker entries on the marketing campaign of Mother's Lounge (and entities). Consumers should base their decision to purchase on the price before the alleged gift card is applied. BBB has noted that the overall price (including shipping) may increase with

Additionally, she said that, "We are still hopeful that Mother's Lounge and Jennie Bosco (Pierce) will revise the marketing campaign to be transparent and meet advertising standards. All consumers deserve businesses that are honess, ethical and transparent!"

are currently pending as BBB is waiting for the business' response."

the use of the alleged gift card."

Metro has reached out to Mother's Lounge LLC for a statement and they have not returned the request.

HAS JENNY B CONFACTED YOU? If so, send me your story at Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

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## "It will be an album full of social and political criticism" - THE OFFSPRING

Guitarist Kevin "Noodles" Wasserman chatted with Metro about the band's tour and next work.



#### Do you remember the band's first performance as The Offspring?

Of course, although we weren't called The Offspring at the time. We were Manic Subsidal, Our first concert was in 1985 in Santa Cruz, California. I also remember that our next presentation was in San Francisco. We were incredibly scared, but at the same time it was a lot of fun.

#### You've been touring with Bad Religion, which is also an iconic punk rock band. Tell us more about that experience.

They are one of the bands with the best live performances. They are an iconic band, and no one can deny it because they have tremendous songs and in the concerts they

sound impeccable.

#### How and when did you start working with Bad Religion? I understand that your relationship with them goes back a long way, right?

We've had a close relationship with Brett Curewitz since 1992, when we signed with his label Epitaph Records, That same year we recorded "Ignition." And, of course, we also had the opportunity to play with them many years ago. When we started this tour we have given ourselves the opportunity to get to know each other better. They are excellent people and tireless workers.

#### You have recently released "It Won't Get Better." What's the story behind this song?

Actually, the 'release' of this song came as we played it live. All of a sudden it went viral and it was already on YouTube and the internet. So the studio version was released as soon as possible. As for the lyrics, well, what we're trying to do is a critique of the opioid crisis, which is leaving so many deaths in the United States and the



world. More and more people are dying and more and more people are becoming addicted. We made it not just because it is illegal, but because companies are taking advantage of this situation to make people dependent on painkillers and other kinds of drugs. All they want is to make money.

It's a single off your next

#### album. Tell us a little more about it. How many songs will it have? How does "It Won't Get Better" represent it and when is the release?

"It Won't Get Better" is a sample of what you will see on the album, starting with the fact that it will be an album loaded with social and political criticism. As for the sound, you know we always try to explore

different rhythms, so a couple of tracks are the result of that experimentation. And speaking of numbers, there will be approximately 12 songs. There is no confirmed release date yet.

#### As you say, releasing a new album involves using new sounds that don't always make old school fans happy.

By always making music you like that it makes you smile as a soloist or as a band. And, of course, the pressure of criticism and commentary will always be there, but real fans always connect with what comes out of your heart. whether it's fused with reggae or some other kind of genre.

#### What's your favorite part of creating a record?

It's when you're working on a song, you listen to it, and it sounds amazing. Getting this is not as easy as many people imagine, because many times you work, work and work, you add to it, you take something away, and in the end you hate it, So that feeling that goes through your body when you know you made it, damn it, is incredible! There's nothing like that in the world.

#### Your last album "Days Go By" was released in 2012. Why did you decide to take such a long break?

It wasn't something we planned. The truth is that everyone was focused. on different projects. For example, Dexter [Holland] was finishing his PhD in Molecular Biology, Although we had the intention of making a new album, we started very slowly, but started.

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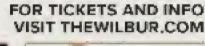
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### SPORTS

Marcus Smart is coming into his own as a leader for the C's.



Marcus Smart has made his bones in the NBA by being a defensive dog.

But on the offensive end, just about every time that Smart jacks up a 3-pointer at TD Garden – you hear a couple thousand groans.

Smart, over the years, has become the Celtics' "Mr. No, No ... Yes!" in that most fans don't want to see him shooting the 3. They only like it when it goes in.

A lot of the Smart 3-point shooting disdain stems from early in his Boston career, as he shot a brutal 25.3 percent from beyond the arc back in 2015-16. There was also that brutal shooting night in Game 7 of the 2018 Eastern Conference Finals against the Cavs in which he shot 0-4 from 3-point land and 1-of-10 from the field.

But with no Kyrie Irving controlling the ball this season, and with

## Celtics playing it Smart

Smart having matured as a player at age 25, Brad Stevens is allowing Smart more freedom on the offensive end. Smart has already taken 33 3-pointers this season, having hit 11 of them.

Last season, Smart connected on a careerbest 36.4 percent of his shots from deep.

Those aren't great percentages by any means, but they're not horrible either. When you consider that Seth Curry is shooting 38.1 percent from deep this season, J.J. Redick is shooting 39.5 and Kemba Walker is shooting 37.0, you can understand why Stevens isn't afraid to give Smart the green light.

Smart is also averaging 10.6 points per game this season, which would be the best scoring average of his NBA career.

The sixth overall pick in the 2014 draft will never be a scoring machine in the league, but the improvement on the offensive end has been mighty encouraging early in the season for the 4-1 Celtics.

Smart has also upped his game in the leadership department with Al Horford now in Philly, and is unquestionably the team's toughest player. The former Oklahoma State star showed last year



Marcus Smart has much more freedom on the offensive end this season.

that he isn't afraid to mix it up with Sixers star Joel Embiid as he shoved him to the floor

in Philly, and in the Celtics' impressive 116-105 win over the Bucks this past Wednesday, Smart wrestled Giannis Antetokounmpo to the

Smart played excep-

tional defense on the reigning MVP throughout the night, holding Giannis to just one field goal over 17 partial possessions when he was on him.

Smart has already received two technical fouls this season, but Stevens is willing to excuse all of it because

of the edginess he gives the team.

Most great teams in NBA history have had an enforcer, someone that opposing teams are petrified to mess with, and Smart has been and always will be that intimidating force for the Celtics for as long as he's wearing green.

14

Marcus Smart drew 14 charges last season, which ranked 17th among all NBA players. Smart has already drawn two charges so far this season.

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#### MNF betting: Cowboys at Giants

**3est** bets

The Cowboys are 0-1 so far this season at MetLife Stadium, having lost to the Jets 24-22 last month.

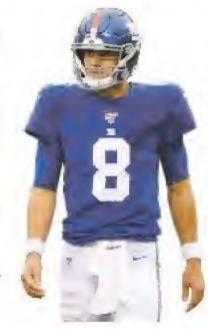
Could another New York upset special be brewing?

It's entirely possible as Jason Garrett hasn't been great with extra preparation. "The Clappet" might be overthinking things as his Cowboys are just 2-3 against the spread over the past five years when coning off of a bye.

Unlike Week 1, when Dallas beat the Giants 35-17 at Jerry World, Big Blue will be trotting out rookie Daniel Jones for the start. Jones has been up and down, which is to be expected for a rookie QB, but he seemed to find his groove last week in a 31-26 loss at Detroit.

In that one, Jones completed 28-of-41 passes for 322 yards, four touchdowns and zero picks.

Saquon Barkley is also due for one of those monster rushing outings we saw so many times last season. Barkley loves shining



underneath the lights of national TV, as his breakout performance last year came against the Eagles on a Thursday night (130 yards rushing, 99 yards receiving).

All told, the gap between the Cowboys and Giants right now isn't as great as most people think. For as bad as Pat Shurmur has been for the Giants, is he that much worse than Garrett? The play: Giants +6 MATRIBUSE

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## **Boston College football back on track**



Boston College could be bowl bound after all!

The Eagles (+3) rushed for almost 500 yards Saturday while steamrolling undersized and worndown Syracuse 58-27. That brought BC to 5-4 on the season. It takes six wins to qualify for a bowl bid. This Saturday's home game against Florida State is key with road toughies left at Notre Dame and Pittsburgh.

Though, the version of BC that squashed Syracuse is capable of winning (and covering) any of those games.

Saturday's stat dominance would have been more dramatic if BC hadn't taken its foot

off the gas after surging to a 44-20 halftime lead. As it was, the Eagles won total yardage 691-448, yards-per-play 9.2 to 5.7, rushing yardage 496-159, and third down conversions 58 percent to 29 percent.

It was B.C.'s third upset featuring a doubledigit spread cover this season. The Eagles were underdogs of +4.5 vs. both Virginia Tech and North Carolina State, winning 35-28 and 45-24 respectively.

Boston College is now 5-1 against the spread as underdogs, with near-miss upsets of Wake. Forest and Louisville at low numbers.

Can the Eagles wrap up a bowl bid vs. the Seminoles? Florida State may be in low spirits after losing its rivalry game to Miami. FSU (-3) missed

the spread by 20 points in a 27-10 defeat. State has dropped three of its last four games outright and ATS.

The key will probably be the effort and mindset of FSU's rush defense. It did hold Miami to just 40 rushing yards on 24 carries, and has allowed less than four yards-per-carry this season.

#### Other Notes

\*A lot of buzz in Boston about Monday night's big NHL game between the Penguins and Bruins. Pittsburgh is 8-5-1 his season, and will be breathing fire after getting stunned at home Saturday afternoon by Edmonton as favorites of -200 on the money line. Boston is riding a five-game winning streak after beating San Jose 5-2 Saturday night as a whopping 400 favorite.

The Bruins are 10-1-2 this season, with the only regulation loss coming on the road at Colorado.

"The Celtics take a four-game winning streak into an NBA road trip that begins Tuesday at Cleveland. They will be wellrested thanks to a few days off after a 104-102 nail biter over the New York Knicks as 10-point favorites this past Friday. The Celtics will be a road favorite against the Cavs, who already have home upsets this season of Indiana (110-99 as a 4-point dog) and Chicago (117-111 as a 2-point dog). Boston enters the new week 3-2 against the spread for the season, a 60 percent cover rate.

\*College basketball hits the ground fastbreaking Tuesday with a



blockbuster doubleheader on ESPN, First, #3 Kansas takes on #4 Duke (7 p.m.), followed by #1 Michigan State vs. #2 Kentucky (9:30 p.m.) Both games are at Madison Square Garden in New York.

The South Point in Las Vegas was the first sportsbook to post pointspreads. Duke

opened as favorites of -2.5 over Kansas, Michigan State opened -2 vs. Kentucky. Be sure you monitor the markets Tuesday to see how sharps shaped. those numbers.

Watch VSiN's sports betting show, "Follow the Money with Mitch and Pauly" weekdays on NESN at 10 a.m.



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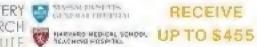
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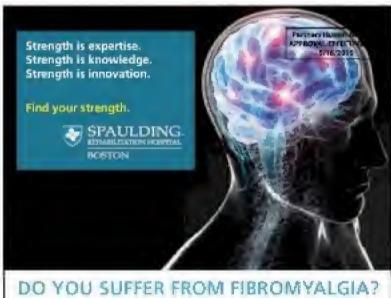
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- Have a waist size of ≥35 in. (pants size ≥8) for women; or have a waist size ≥40 inches for men

#### And you are willing to:

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- · Provide blood samples & fill out guestionnaires
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#### ACROSS

1 " It Be"; Beatles song in; enjoy 9 Tiny drinks 13 Overnight dance party. 14 Banishment 15 -on; tie type

16 Word after double or convection 17 Common cause of

food poisoning 19 Declare illegal

20 Chops finely 21 1st phase of an illness 22 "Oliver "

24 Ted Danson series, once 25 School no-show

27 Votes into office up on; studies about 31 Whipped cream-

topped drinks 33 Last biblical bk.

35 lsn't \_\_\_to; can't 36 Casual greeting

37 Not yours, not his & not hers

#### metro.us/crossword

38 Actor Brynner 39 Singer Simon

40 TV remote button

41 Oppressive ruler 43 Warm season

44 Horse's cousin

45 Summarize 46 Home

49 "\_\_ your lucky stars!" 51 Wheel center

54 Draw new zoning lines

56 Out of harm's way 57 Scoundrels

58 External

59 "...giving \_\_\_, up the chimney he rose...'

60 "Be quiet!" 61 Unkempt 62 Half-qts.

#### DOWN

1 Molten rock 2 At the end of the day 3 Bill denomination

4 Put up a struggle 5 Precise

6 Disgusting 7 Dutch \_\_\_ disease; tree

8 Name for 13 popes

10 Problems 11 Stack

#### 9 Picturesque

#### 12 Altercation

13 Carl Reiner's boy

18 Snouts

20 Clamors 23 Get one's feet wet

24 Potter's material

25 Cafeteria item 26 Counter an argument

27 Nelson or Mary Baker 28 Rejoicing over a win

29 Good judgment

31 Categorize 32 Hooter

34 Swerve

Christian Andersen 36

37 Baby's word

39 Word attached to brief or suit

40 Hockey disk

42 Item on a relish tray

43 Guard

45 Churchill Downs events 46 Prefix for angel or diocese

47 Suitor

48 Probability -blue; loyal

50 Wallops

52 Martian vehicles, for

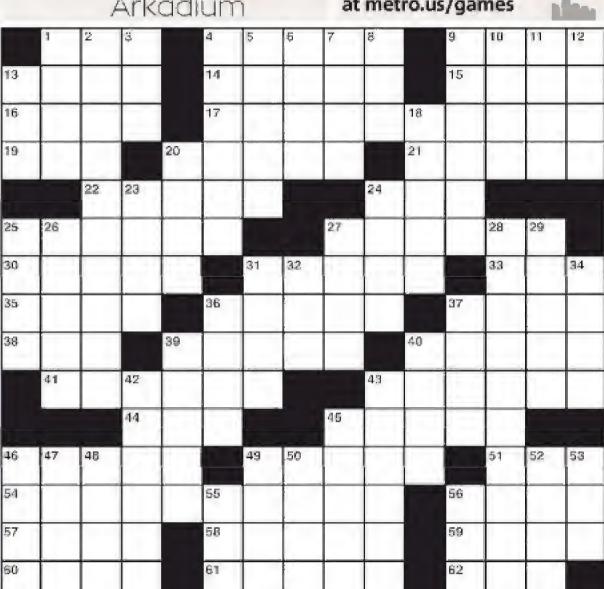
short 53 Flower garden

55 Arnold or Bergeron 56 Gullible one

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#### metro.us/sudoku

8	9		2					
		7	5		3		9	1
	1					ന	2	8
		8	3	2	4		1	
7	3						4	6
	4		8	6	7	5		
3	2	9					5	
5	8		6		2	1		
					5		8	3

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#### metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Do your best to make a difference, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Looking out for your financial interests in a joint venture will be necessary.

Taurus Step up, make things happen and don't look back or let someone's emotional manipulation stand in your way. A joint venture will have strings attached. Proceed with caution.

Gemini Explore your options, and don't be afraid to make an adjustment to the way you do things or how you move forward. A better position, partnership or schedule will make a difference.

Cancer A different perspective on how you handle matters or whom you deal with will encourage you to speak up on someone else's behalf. Your concern will be noted and respected.

Leo Sit tight, be observant and pour your energy into something constructive or healthy. Exercise and diet should be priorities if you want to look and feel your best.

everyone.

Virgo Get involved in activities that involve older or younger family members. The support and help you give others will lead to positive lifestyle changes for

Yesterday's Answers														
	S	T	S	T	A	S	1	D	E		Д	L	P	S
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H	A	1	L		R	U	N	1	N		O	1	N	K
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Libra If you look on the bright side, you will figure out a way to sidestep someone difficult or demanding. How others react to your maneuver will prompt you to expand your interests and friendships.

Scorpio Rely on your experience, charm and knowledge to help you take advantage of a chance to embark on an adventure. A mix of old and new is favored.

Sagittarius Look over personal documents and update any that are ready to expire. Staying on topof deadlines and paying attention to the details will also encourage you to take better care of your

Capricorn Upgrades can be made. A domestic change will lift your spirits and ease stress. A service you can offer from home will bring in extra cash.

Aguarius Use your physical attributes to your advantage. A personal gain is possible if you take action. Romance is on the rise, and your intentions will help you make a decision.

Pisces Look inward, explore your feelings and make adjustments to the way you handle your money. A positive outlook will help you reinvent what you have to offer, exemples

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